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UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Other entities and programmes

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

SUMMARY

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical cooperation activities provides an overview of the work of organizational entities (other than that of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat) which engage in technical cooperation activities. The overview, provided by the regional commissions, the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme, covers activities undertaken by these entities in 1992.

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I. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continued to carry out a programme of technical cooperation aimed at furthering the economic and social development of the countries of the region.

2. In 1992, resources of over $2.3 million were allocated from the United Nations Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation to support the services of regional advisors, to assist the Commission's Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) and to finance regional and subregional activities in economic cooperation and integration, public administration and finance, social development, statistics, transport and communications, tourism and energy.

3. As in previous years, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to be ECA's major source of funds for technical cooperation activities its contribution amounting to $11.5 million. Assistance was provided in transport and communications; development information systems; economic cooperation and integration, notably to support intergovernmental organizations; administration and management reform; statistical development and data collection; women in development; the monitoring of the implementation of UNPAAERD; strategy development; building materials; industrial development and technology.

4. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) allotted almost $3 million in 1992 in support of regional population activities executed by ECA.

5. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) contributed about $2.1 million for activities relating to women in development, transport and communications, economic cooperation and integration, food technology, rural and agricultural development, small-scale industry, mineral development, science and technology, development information systems, the informal sector, population and fellowships.

6. Bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided a total of $1.7 million in support of ECA activities in the region in the fields of popular participation, women in development, food technology, rural and agricultural development, trypanosomiasis control, small-scale industry, science and technology, development information systems, the informal sector, population, project management and fellowships.

II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

7. During 1992, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) provided assistance to programmes designed to promote the economic reconstruction of Europe in response to the radical changes which have taken place in the countries of central and eastern Europe. In order to provide the countries in transition with urgent practical assistance, ECE continued its programme of workshops on questions relating to transition, which focus on market adaptation, privatization, restructuring of industry, foreign investment, housing

policies, etc. More than 70 such workshops have been organized since the programme was launched in the second half of 1990.

8. ECE also continued to execute and initiate a number of technical cooperation activities in 1992, with the financial support of UNDP and UNFPA, in the sectors of energy, statistics, population, trade and transport. These activities included a government-sponsored project entitled "Energy Efficiency 2000", designed to close the energy-efficiency gap between the industries of the former east European nations and the West, and a project entitled "Global Energy Efficiency 21 - an Interregional Approach", intended to facilitate the transfer of information on energy-efficient technologies and management practices.

9. ECE continued preparation of the project on applied statistical computing for countries in transition. In June 1992, the UNDP Governing Council decided to include the project in the fifth regional programming cycle. In January 1993, ECE organized a workshop of experts concerning preparation of the project document itself and has also initiated cooperation with EUROSTAT on the project.

10. In population, ECE, in cooperation with UNFPA, began to implement projects relating to east-west migration, social and economic characteristics of elderly populations, fertility and family surveys and population-related policies. In addition, in collaboration with UNFPA and the Council of Europe, it made preparations for a regional intergovernmental population conference to be held in March 1993, preparatory to the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994.

11. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/76, ECE has developed a programme for assisting economies in transition with regard to trade facilitation and EDIFACT (Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport). The programme includes studies on trade infrastructure in transitional economies for use in identifying major requirements and appropriate solutions in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic data interchange; the development of educational materials and the training of national experts in those areas and the provision of advice and assistance in the establishment of national trade facilitation centres. Having been well received by the ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, this programme has been presented to member countries and funding organizations for consideration. ECE also works closely with UNCTAD in the dissemination and promotion of recommendations and standards in the field of trade facilitation and will contribute to the UNCTAD programme on trade efficiency and participate in the trade efficiency symposium on that topic scheduled for 1994.

12. In the transport sector, ECE carried out a series of missions to the countries in transition in central and eastern Europe and to other countries of the region to provide advice and assistance in the development of transport programmes and infrastructure.

13. Further progress was made in advancing the Trans-European North-South Motorway project, for which a trust fund has been established, and in establishing the technical parameters for the planning, design and construction of the Trans-European Railway (TER) network.

III. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

14. During 1992, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) carried out a wide range of activities providing technical cooperation and advisory services to the countries of the region within the framework of the ECLAC programme of work as approved by member countries at the twenty-third session of the Commission (Caracas, May 1990). Technical assistance during the reporting year continued to be oriented towards the strengthening of the performance of national public-sector development agencies. The establishment of linkages between such agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other agents in the private sector, was emphasized as a general orientation of ECLAC's technical cooperation activities.

15. The several components of the ECLAC system (the secretariat proper, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)) carried out 181 assistance missions in close coordination with the government authorities and UNDP resident coordinators in the recipient countries. With regard to training, ILPES organized international and national courses in the field of social-economic planning and policy coordination for nearly 4,000 professionals of the region. ILPES awarded 28 full fellowships funded mainly by Spain and France.

16. As in previous years, CELADE continued its specialized training activities in population and demography. Support was given to 45 fellows who attended population and development courses. These activities were funded by extrabudgetary contributions from the Netherlands, Canada and UNFPA.

17. The various subregional offices of ECLAC continued their numerous activities in the specific geographical areas under their responsibility. The subregional office in Mexico City gave continuous support to institutional cooperation aimed at fostering the subregional integration process in Central America. Support for the economic recovery and restructuring of the countries of the subregion was also a prominent activity of this office during the reporting year. The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, cooperated closely with the technical secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The Montevideo office gave technical backstopping to the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and was actively engaged in the provision of advisory services to government agencies. The Buenos Aires and Brasilia offices continued their support to integration initiatives between their host countries.

18. The ECLAC system continued to collaborate with the secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) on a wide range of subjects of mutual concern. In particular, ECLAC worked closely with SELA-sponsored initiatives to increase consultation and coordination among regional organizations on a continuous basis.

19. As in previous years, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNFPA continued to support ECLAC in its technical cooperation activities. In this connection it should also be noted that the ECLAC secretariat includes a joint division between ECLAC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Finally, mention shall be made of the generous and

substantial support provided by a number of donor countries through voluntary contributions to technical cooperation projects executed by ECLAC.

IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

20. Although the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) received substantial financial contributions from various sources within and outside the United Nations system for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 1992, and contributions fell by 23 per cent by comparison with the previous year, which may be attributed basically to a drop in funding by UNDP and UNFPA of 53 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. Significant voluntary financial contributions were also received from traditional donor countries and from developing countries to implement activities of mutual concern within the framework of the ESCAP work programme. Contributions in kind were also received from donor and developing member countries.

21. In its technical cooperation activities the Commission continued to accord special attention to the least developed countries and the Pacific island developing countries. During 1992, ESCAP regional advisers under the United Nations Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation rendered technical and advisory services to 26 developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region through 37 missions. These services pertained to such fields as macroeconomic management and economic reform, the negotiation and promotion of trade policies, water resources, remote sensing and geographic information systems, energy, environmental management, national accounts and social development. Similarly, UNFPA-financed advisers on population censuses and surveys, family planning and maternal and child health management, information systems, population policies and population and development rendered services to 20 countries through 37 missions.

22. For the island developing countries in the Pacific, short-term advisory services continued to be provided by the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) at Port Vila, Vanuatu, in development economics and finance, physical planning and port and harbour development. EPOC also dispatched quick-action consultancy missions to island developing countries.

23. Technical cooperation projects funded by UNDP and bilateral donors addressed important questions pertaining to poverty alleviation; environmentally sound and sustainable development; human resources development and integration of women in development; energy and natural resources, including energy planning, new and renewable sources of energy and remote sensing and its applications; industrial restructuring and promotion of competitive manufacturing; international trade and tourism and transport and communications, including port development, inland water transport, highways and rural road infrastructure and railways. A new initiative has also been launched to provide technical assistance to transitionally disadvantaged economies.

24. UNFPA continued its institutional support of ESCAP, thereby enabling the Commission to continue enhancing its technical assistance to and training for national population centres. Funds were also provided for research activities in such fields as population change and women's role, population ageing,

rural-urban migration, population and environment and training in the use of microcomputers for population data and information. All these activities were aimed at assisting developing countries to formulate population policies and to integrate them into their development plans and human resources development efforts.

25. ESCAP continued to cooperate closely with FAO in research and development relating to legumes and coarse grains in the Asian tropics and subtropics and with FAO and UNIDO in activities within the framework of the project for the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific. It also cooperated with UNEP and the World Bank in the field of environment, with the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on natural disaster reduction in the region and with UNCTAD in the field of international trade.

26. In collaboration with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations the ESCAP TCDC Supplementary Fund supported 33 operational TCDC activities in the fields of agriculture (including fisheries, irrigation, agricultural extension and rural industrialization), natural resources development, industry and human settlements, environment, population, social development, science and technology and international trade.

V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

27. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continued to undertake technical cooperation activities in the region through the provision of short-term regional advisory services and the monitoring and substantive support of technical assistance projects which the Commission undertakes in its capacity as an executing agency.

28. In the area of data processing, advisory services were provided to Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

29. In development planning, assistance was rendered to Oman and Palestine.

30. In demography, advice was provided to Egypt, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syria and Yemen and in population statistics, to Oman and Saudi Arabia.

31. In energy, advisory services were provided to Egypt, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syria and Yemen, and in science and technology, to Jordan, Oman and Yemen.

32. In environment, advice was provided to Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

33. In human resources development, advice was provided to Jordan, Oman and Yemen.

34. In industrial development, assistance was extended to Jordan and Yemen.

35. In national accounts and economic statistics, assistance was provided to Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

36. In transport and communications, assistance was extended to Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

37. In water-resources development, advice was provided to Bahrain, Jordan, Oman and Syria.

38. In addition, advisors participated in meetings and seminars organized by regional organizations.

39. Technical assistance projects in progress during 1992 included a project on the promotion of industrial entrepreneurship in countries of the ESCWA region, which focused on the development of indigenous industrial entrepreneurship and small-scale manufacturing. Another project entitled "Interregional Symposium on Gas Development" was aimed at assessing gas potential and market prospects and at the formulation of policies for the production and transportation of gas for the years 2000 and beyond. A symposium in this connection was held in Damascus, Syria, in June 1992. A project on the establishment of engineering-infrastructure industries in the ESCWA region was designed to accelerate the development and growth of industries in general and the engineering industry in particular and to rationalize and promote the operationalization of the capacities of existing industries producing intermediate engineering products.

40. Finally, ESCWA continued to execute an increasing number of projects financed from the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Most of these projects concern the roles of women in national development efforts.

VI. CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

41. Within its technical cooperation programme, the Centre for Human Rights provides Governments, at their request, with the following forms of assistance: advisory services of experts, fellowships and scholarships, seminars and regional and national training courses.

42. The Centre's advisory services and technical assistance programme aims at (a) furthering knowledge and understanding of international human rights standards and their normative content with a view to promoting their widest application; (b) facilitating the implementation of international human rights standards; (c) providing technical assistance to Governments in the establishment and development of national infrastructures for the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights norms.

43. In 1988, the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights was established in order to supplement resources existing within the regular budget. This Fund has provided most of the resources used in connection with technical cooperation. In 1992, it received donations amounting to about $600,000.

44. The resources of the Fund are allocated primarily to finance activities aimed at building up or strengthening national and regional infrastructures for the promotion and protection of human rights. Training and other support activities continue to provide the necessary basic information and knowledge needed for the implementation of human rights norms.

45. During 1992, the Voluntary Fund financed legislative assistance in Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia, Nepal and Paraguay; electoral assistance in Angola, Eritrea, Cambodia, Lesotho, Malawi and Romania; national and subregional centres for documentation and training in Colombia, Gambia, Poland, Tunisia, Uganda and Uruguay and training courses, seminars and workshops in Albania, Benin, Botswana, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Italy, Romania, Spain and Swaziland.

46. Based on experience acquired through the organization of workshops and training courses, the Centre is developing teaching and training manuals on elections and manuals designed for specific target groups, including police officials and judges and magistrates and lawyers. The Centre also continued to support the African Commission of Human and People's Rights of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

47. In 1992, the Centre adopted a new approach to advisory services and technical cooperation, which seeks a closer partnership with United Nations agencies and other institutions; in this system-wide cooperation, countries requesting assistance from the Centre can rely on it to analyse their human rights needs and present a comprehensive programme to meet their requirements. The Centre may partially implement projects, but for the most part it helps individual countries to contact other agencies and bilateral donors and then encourages those agencies and donors to finance and implement specific projects within the comprehensive programme for the country concerned. Within that context, UNDP and the Centre are discussing an informal mechanism of consultations as well as stronger cooperation in the field.

48. Under this new approach, in 1992 the Centre for Human Rights provided advisory services to the Governments of Albania, Benin, Colombia, Mongolia, Namibia and Sao Tome and Principe to assess their needs in the field of human rights. Additional funding and human resources are, however, necessary to cope with the increasing demand for assistance in human rights. Over 40 requests for technical assistance from Member States in the field of human rights could not be met because of insufficient financial and human resources.

VII. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

49. In 1992, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) focused its concern on building national capacities and institutional capabilities in accordance with a social perspective on development. Special attention was also accorded to issues related to the advancement of women, crime prevention and criminal justice and the situation of specific social groups, including the elderly, disabled persons and youth.

50. There is growing evidence of governmental concern with the social perspective on development as they devote increased attention at both policy and programme levels to linking the issues of livelihood, well-being and standards of living. In line with this new focus on social concerns, CSDHA organized a high-level mission to the Russian Federation to advise on transition to market-based mechanisms viewed from a social perspective. The results of this mission have been published by the David Hume Institute in a technical monograph entitled "Social policies in the transition to a market economy".

51. The introduction of arrangements succeeding the support-costs regime provided CSDHA with increased opportunities to cooperate with UNDP in assisting Governments which request help, programme design and project formulation form a social perspective. Such support included ad hoc advisory services financed from UNDP core resources to Indonesia on improving systems and procedures for public-, private- and voluntary-sector cooperation in achieving the social objectives of development; to Lesotho on a joint DESD-CSDHA planning and programming mission in the economic and social sectors and to Oman on a joint ESCWA-CSDHA social development programming mission.

52. Peace-keeping operations represent an emerging area of demand, and a source of finances, for technical cooperation in the social field. CSHDA has been assisting the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in the development of training and reference materials on crime prevention and on a code of conduct for public officials. It has also been collaborating with UNPROFOR and UNDP in a social reconstruction initiative co-financed through a major contribution by Austria and through in-kind assistance from the Austrian private sector.

53. Advisory services financed by UNDP and other extra-budgetary resources were complemented by three DESD interregional advisors assigned to CSDHA in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, social policies and development, and the advancement of women. During the period under review, these three advisors undertook a total of 27 policy-level advisory missions to Governments at their request.

54. With regard to the advancement of women, CSDHA organized, under the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation, a regional workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Antigua, April 1992). The Workshop was designed to improve capacities to meet the reporting obligations of the Convention and to increase awareness of its applicability at national and international levels.

55. In connection with crime prevention and criminal justice, during the period under review, CSDHA cooperated in the organization of 10 training seminars on priority topics, including administration of justice, organized crime and prison administration and management. Half of these seminars were co-financed by the Centre for Human Rights, and the rest were organized jointly with regional and interregional bodies dealing with crime. This participation in the organization and conduct of workshops was complemented by collaboration with concerned centres and institutions in the joint preparation of training materials on such key topics as computerization of criminal justice systems, pre-trial detention, allotment of life sentences and overcrowding in prisons. As noted above, a major substantive contribution by CSDHA has been its preparation, in cooperation with UNTAC, of training and reference materials on improved criminal justice administration in Cambodia.

56. Issues related to specific social groups are one of the core areas of CSDHA in its capacity as global focal point in the fields of ageing, disabled persons and youth. During the period under review advice and assistance was provided to Governments, at their request, in conjunction with interregional advisory services from the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation and through earmarked contributions. The principal topics for technical cooperation in the

field of ageing include productive ageing and target-setting as a major element in implementing strategies and policies related to ageing. As for the topic of disability, the major focus in technical cooperation activities has been on advice and assistance on legislative guidelines for promoting the rights of disabled persons, the practical integration of disability issues into mainstream policies and programmes and the establishment and development of national coordinating committees and similar mechanisms. In the field of youth, a number of Governments have requested advice and assistance in the design of strategies and policies to incorporate young persons in all aspects of development as agents and beneficiaries. There is growing recognition that the well-being of future generations is possible only through comprehensive involvement of young persons as development agents and beneficiaries.

57. The CSDHA-administered trust fund concerning ageing, disabled persons and youth provided a total of $436,300 in seed-money grants to 33 small-scale projects.

VIII. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

58. The period under review constitutes the first full year of operations of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) established under General Assembly resolution 45/179 in March 1991. After extensive internal review and consultations with Governments, the Programme's strategic directions were completed and are currently in the early phases of implementation.

59. The priorities of the Programme include (a) coordinating and integrating the various drug control efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies, international financial institutions and other public- and private-sector entities in order to increase the effectiveness and impact of drug-control interventions at the national, regional and global levels with due consideration given to comparative advantages and the scope for synergy; (b) improving UNDCP capacities to gather, analyse and disseminate drug-control information in order to facilitate effective planning by Governments; (c) assisting Governments in the development of national drug-control master-plans to provide a frame of reference for national, bilateral and multilateral assistance and ensure that the best possible use is made of the scarce resources available for international drug control; (d) giving special attention to the drug-control needs of regions such as eastern Europe and central Asia, which have recently undergone fundamental political and socio-economic change; (e) placing increased emphasis on programmes and projects devoted to efforts to reduce demand and particularly to preventive education and rehabilitation, while redefining and improving catalytic interventions by UNDCP in the fields of alternative development, law enforcement and judicial reform with a view to creating favourable conditions for more substantial participation by Governments and external donors.

60. UNDCP is uniquely placed to facilitate cooperation between countries in developing subregional drug-control strategies. During 1992, action initiated by UNDCP for this purpose included innovative technical consultations and plans of action relating to drug issues in south-west Asia as well as cooperation agreements between Myanmar and Thailand and Myanmar and China. UNDCP also

developed key drug-control inputs in the reconstruction efforts of Lebanon and Afghanistan.

61. The total estimated expenditure on operational activities in 1992 was $71.5 million. UNDCP provided assistance to 73 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean through 201 national, regional and global level projects in all sectors of drug control.

IX. OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

62. The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat advises and assists United Nations bodies and units at Headquarters and in the field, including DESD, UNDP and related programmes and offices, on matters pertaining to the establishment, application and interpretation of legal instruments and rules relating to cooperation programmes. The work, which is of a continuing nature, includes drafting and interpreting constitutive instruments, terms of reference and financial and other regulations, rules and directives of United Nations bodies; drafting, interpreting and advising on basic assistance agreements, loan agreements, project documents, trust fund arrangements, cost-sharing agreements, management services agreements and contracts with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, executing agencies and private parties; providing legal advice and assistance in the negotiation and settlement of legal disputes and advising on administrative, personnel, financial and contractual questions derived from technical cooperation activities and on problems involving United Nations privileges and immunities.

63. The Office of Legal Affairs also performs various activities connected with the goals of the United Nations programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, which fall also within the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law. The Office received and assigned interns to participate in tasks related to some of its projects at no financial cost to the Organization. It participated in the United Nations/United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Fellowship Programme in International Law, financed from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions from States. A total of 19 fellowships were awarded in 1992. The Office also cooperated in training and assistance programmes sponsored by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and organized the activities connected with the award of the sixth and seventh Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea financed from a trust fund of voluntary contributions.

X. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

64. The technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) are focused on assisting Governments in the formulation of policies and strategies to create a self-reliant human settlements management capacity at both national and local levels. In direct response to increasing demand from Governments of developing countries, UNCHS (Habitat) technical cooperation activities continued to expand during 1992,

particularly with regard to the provision of support to government policy makers in strengthening human settlements management capacity within the framework of the national development planning process.

65. During 1992, UNCHS supported the implementation of over 260 technical cooperation programmes and projects in more than 90 countries, of which 82 projects were in least developed countries (LDCs). Funds budgeted in 1992, as of the end of the third quarter, totalled $47 million.

66. UNDP continued to be the major source of funding for UNCHS technical cooperation programmes and projects during 1992, accounting for 65 per cent of the UNCHS technical cooperation budget for 1992. Reflecting recent trends, however, both host-government and third-party cost-sharing for UNCHS programmes and projects continued to expand during 1992, rising to 23 per cent of the total funds budgeted for technical cooperation. This shows that by helping Governments to define priorities relating to human settlements, UNCHS is increasingly playing a catalytic role in the mobilization of resources from bilateral donors, multilateral development banks and the private sector. These resources are normally then leveraged as cost-sharing contributions to UNDP country programmes. Resources mobilized in this way are crucial in regions where UNDP resources are particularly limited.

67. The technical cooperation activities of UNCHS also continued to be very effectively leveraged within the framework of national investment programming. UNDP's latest statistics on 1991 investment commitments related to UNDP-assisted projects clearly illustrate this point, showing that the 1991 investment commitments resulting from UNCHS-executed projects amounted to over $1,350,000,000. Accordingly, while UNCHS served as executing agency for less than 2 per cent of the indicative planning figures (IPFs) of UNDP resources, UNCHS-executed projects resulted in over 16 per cent of the total investment commitments related to all UNDP-assisted projects in 1991.

68. In an increasing number of cases, UNCHS is aiding both the design and implementation of nationally executed projects. Moreover, out of a total of over 600 project personnel fielded during 1992, over 60 per cent were national experts and consultants. Similarly, according to the latest available statistics on the operational activities of the United Nations system, over 67 per cent of the total procurement of UNCHS for 1991 was from developing countries (A/47/419/Add.2).

69. Assisting Governments in their presentations for the UNDP fifth programming cycle, UNCHS continued during the 1991-1992 period to expand its Human Settlements Sector Analysis and Needs Assessment Programme to provide a sound basis for shifting to a country-based programme approach. In 1992, the Centre supported 17 human-settlements sector analysis and needs assessments missions to Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Albania, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, the Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Panama, Ecuador and Indonesia and to the Caribbean.

70. At the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), UNCHS seconded staff to work with the UNCED secretariat to help prepare the human settlements chapter and related sections of Agenda 21.

71. The UNCED process also identified the UNCHS Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) as an important vehicle for supporting municipal authorities world wide in improving their environmental planning and management capacity. With financial support from UNDP (IPFs) and bilateral donors, SCP was active during 1992 in the United Republic of Tanzania, Egypt, Chile and India; and new SCP initiatives were launched in Ghana, Nigeria, Tunisia, Ecuador, Poland and Indonesia.

72. The UNDP Division for Global and Interregional Programmes (DGIP) is providing core funding for two of those highly important global technical cooperation programmes, one of which - the Urban Management Programme (UMP) - was identified in the UNCED process as being an important collaborative programme for implementing Agenda 21. With urban environment management as one of its strategic areas of focus during 1992, the administration of UMP was decentralized to four regional offices located in Togo, Ecuador, Malaysia and Egypt. During 1992, UMP benefited from increased financial support from what has now grown into an important consortium of nine bilateral donors. The other major global programme financed by UNDP/DGIP and launched by UNCHS in 1992 is the preparatory assistance phase of a programme entitled "Improving living conditions and expanding employment opportunities in urban low-income communities". UNCHS is implementing this programme in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

XI. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

73. The expenditures in 1992 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on technical cooperation amounted to about $20 million. Although UNDP remains the most important single source of funds, an increasing proportion of the overall programme is supported by bilateral donors and other sources of official development assistance.

74. In the field of trade, activities included support to developing countries participating in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and assistance in the development of the service sector in developing countries; trade policy reform; the utilization of the generalized system of preferences; the implementation of competition policies and the control of restrictive business practices; the transfer of technology and trade between developing countries and countries with economies in transition. TRAINFORTRADE, UNCTAD's new programme on the development of human resources for the trade sector, became fully operational in 1992.

75. UNCTAD's programme for helping developing countries to manage their external debt liabilities, which is carried out in cooperation with the World Bank, continued to expand. Further assistance was provided to interested countries for the development of their insurance sector and to countries members of the Group of 24 in connection with various international monetary issues.

76. Assistance was also provided in the area of commodity production, diversification and marketing, including help in improving the management of food-grain imports. A number of groupings of developing countries established for purposes of integration continued to cooperate with UNCTAD.

77. Several LDCs worked closely with the UNCTAD technical cooperation programme. Further work was undertaken on the transit problems of land-locked countries in Africa. Activities related to maritime transport included the development of shipping services in several countries, human-resource development under the TRIAINMAR programme and assistance in improving port management, and utilizing modern technologies for multimodal transport.

78. Over 50 countries cooperate with UNCTAD in an effort to improve customs management under what is now its largest technical cooperation programme. UNCTAD is also disseminating its database on trade control measures to a growing number of countries.

79. Detailed information on the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD available through its regular reports thereon (for the period 1989-1991, see TD/B/WP/76 and Add.1 of 6 July 1992).

XII. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

80. In 1992, UNEP provided, through its Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre (ELI/PAC), technical cooperation in the field of environmental law and institutions to the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Mongolia, the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Namibia, Benin, Sao Tome and Principe, the Gambia and Rwanda. UNEP organized a national workshop on environmental law and institutions in Lesotho and, in collaboration with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), another similar workshop for countries in the South Pacific subregion.

81. Initiatives were taken, in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank, to develop inter-agency cooperation in the area of national legislation and institutions and training. The activities undertaken with UNDP were further developed through consultations between UNEP and UNFPA on the strategy, scope and content of a joint programme of assistance to African countries in the development of environmental legislation and institutions. UNEP worked closely with the World Bank in the implementation of its programme of assistance to Burundi. In addition to providing sectoral training courses, UNEP held several training courses and seminars on environmental management.

82. Clearing-house activities in such fields as the preparation of national environmental plans or strategies and the promotion of national capability-building for environmental management were undertaken in Burundi, Djibouti, Egypt, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Panama and Viet Nam. Technical assistance projects in environmental management funded up to 1989 by the Arab Gulf Programme of the United Nations (AGFUND) are being monitored and followed up.

83. Within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was being negotiated at the time, UNEP provided support for the preparation of country studies on the costs, benefits and unmet needs of biological conservation in the Bahamas, Guyana, Nigeria, Poland, Peru and Thailand. These

studies were aimed at the preparation of national strategies and were also intended to facilitate the agreement on the establishment of a fund in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

84. INFOTERRA, the international environmental information system, responded to 24,500 queries in 1992. Fifteen countries joined the system, bringing the total number of participating countries to 155; the number of special sectoral sources rose from 31 to 35; one new regional service centre was added, making a total of 12, and the INFOTERRA international directory, comprising over 6,000 sources of environmental information, was updated.

85. In the field of energy-policy development, UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of India, formulated a project on environmentally sound energy development.

86. In 1992, the UNEP Global Resources Information Database Programme (GRID) provided assistance in the area of capacity-building to Thailand, Nepal, Western Samoa, Lesotho, Botswana and Kenya. There were 30 GRID-affiliated centres in the world as of December 1992.

87. At the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Programme, UNEP worked in close cooperation with African Governments, NGOs and other development agencies regarding the implementation of necessary action in the area of energy and food security and of such measures as the strengthening of environmental machineries, the preparation of environmental action plans and programmes, the introduction of programmes in the area of environmental training and public awareness and the formulation and/or strengthening of environmental legislation.

88. UNEP is providing support for 24 projects under the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the initial financing of the secretariat located at the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. These projects are being implemented in close association with Governments, ECLAC, the regional offices of United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and subregional organizations.